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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Our neighborhood worked hard for 7 years to get fiber and reliable phone service - an area where the big providers (Comcast and AT&T) refused to bring internet to our rural homes. Residents in our area are just now getting internet speeds so they can run a business from home, so children don't have to go out in a field at 10pm to be able to do their homework, so older residents can have an on-line doctor's appointment when they can't drive all the way to town - and many, many other necessities of life in modern times. Before the fiber arrived, in order to get any internet at all (dial up speed) my 65 year old husband climbed 125' up a redwood tree to install the receiver.

Our neighborhood received a grant from FCC so that RACE could install the fiber and Sonic could provide the unbundled network elements to make the system work. I now have fast internet and am paying half the price I had to pay to Verizon for unreliable phone & limited internet service. (Verizon had the audacity to sell me "Unlimited internet" - and several months later they started to limit the service so that once I used so many minutes, they would throttle my service back to the point where I couldn't send photos to scientists who were doing plant research. Verizon did that very thing to a fire department in my area that was fighting disastrous wildfires.)

Competition is critical to the telecom industry for many reasons. Without competition the big companies do as they please and neglect the needs of rural people who need affordable and reliable internet and phone service - and TV as well. Monopolies can work freely on greed.

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